

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS PINS MZ

SUBJ: SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS LOCATES ALLEGED MASSACRE VILLAGE

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 0482

1. JOHANNESBURG STAR OF JULY 16 CARRIES LENGTHY ARTICLE
BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT WILF NUSSEY IN WHICH LATTER CLAIMS
THAT HE AND BRITISH JOURNALISTS (INCLUDING PETER HAWTHORNE
OF BBC, BRUCE LOUDON OF DAILY TELEGRAPH, AND JAMES MACMANUS
OF THE GUARDIAN) HAVE LOCATED AND VISITED BURNED DOWN VILLAGE
CALLED WILIAMO (BUT PRONOUNCED WIRIYAMU), 12 KILOMETERS SOUTH
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OF TETE CITY BETWEEN CHINHOMA AND QUIRO RIVER. ACCORDING

LOCALLY BASED AFRICAN ARMY PRIVATE WHO FIRST RECOGNIZED AND IDENTIFIED VILLAGE, WILIAMO WAS BURNED DOWN FOUR MONTHS AGO AFTER POPULATION RESETTLED IN ALDEAMENTOS; HE FIRMLY DENIED THAT THERE HAD BEEN ANY KILLING. CORRESPONDENTS FOUND VARIOUS ARTICLES OF PERSONAL PROPERTY IN RUINS, SUGGESTING HASTY DEPARTURE, BUT NO EVIDENCE OF SHOOTINGS OR KILLINGS.

2. AT SAN PEDRO MISSION OUTSIDE TETE, WHICH HAS JURISDICTION OVER AREA, AN AFRICAN PRIEST NAMED FATHER DUMINY (PHONETIC) REFUSED TO DO MORE THAN CALL HIS SUPERIOR, A SPANIARD WHO REFUSED MAKE ANY STATEMENT OR EVEN GIVE HIS NAME, REFERRING ALL QUESTIONS TO BISHOP OF TETE. PORTUGUESE ARMY OFFICERS WERE PRESENT DURING ATTEMPTED INTERVIEW. (NOTE: ACCORDING 1971 MOZAMBIQUE CATHOLIC ALMANAC, THE SUPERIOR OF THE SAN PEDRO MISSION WAS FATHER EDMUNDO LLOBET MACIA OF BURGOS FATHERS.) NUSSEY NOTES THERE ARE APPARENTLY OTHER WILIAMO VILLAGES IN TETE (NAMED AFTER CHIEFS WITH ENGLISH NAMES), IN MUCUMBURA AREA NEAR RHODESIAN FRONTIER, BUT THIS THE ONLY ONE THAT HAS BEEN TURNED UP IN TETE CITY REGION WHERE MOST ACCOUNTS (INCLUDING LONDON TIMES) PLACE ALLEGED MASSACRE. WILIAMO HAD ESTIMATED POPULATION OF 50 - 100, LARGER THAN USUAL IN AREA, BEFORE ITS REPORTED EVACUATION. NUSSEY CONCLUDES THAT VERDICT IS "NOT PROVEN BUT IMPROBABLE"; HIS DOUBT STEMMING FROM RETICENCE OF PRIESTS IN AREA.

3. IN SEPARATE ARTICLE SAME ISSUE, NUSSEY REPORTS HE LOCATED (WITH DIFFICULTY) BISHOP OF TETE, DOM AUGUSTO CESAR ALVES FERREIRA DA SILVA (WHO ASSUMED OFFICE IN JULY 1972), AND ASKED HIM ABOUT MASSACRE. BISHOP REPORTEDLY REFUSED TO COMMENT IN ANY FASHION, SAYING "THIS IS SOMETHING POLITICAL SO YOU SHOULD GO AND TALK TO THE POLITICIANS AND NOT ME". BISHOP HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY QUOTED IN LOCAL PRESS AS DENYING HE EVER OVERFLEW AREA LOOKING FOR EVIDENCE OF ATROCITIES, THOUGH HE HAD OF COURSE FLOWN IN AREA FREQUENTLY; HE DID NOT INDICATE WHETHER HE HAD SEEN ANYTHING WRONG ON ROUTINE FLIGHTS.

4. COMMENT: LOCATION OF SUSPECTED VILLAGE SEEMS PLAUSIBLE. WHAT, IF ANYTHING, UNTOWARD HAPPENED THERE LAST DECEMBER REMAINS UNPROVED, THROUGH REPORTS WE HAVE HEARD THROUGH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CLERGY, AND BEHAVIOR OF CLERGY ON SPOT, STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT ELEMENTS OF CLERGY DO BELIEVE SOMETHING BAD DID OCCUR. IF LOCATION OF WIRIAMU HAS IN FACT BEEN ESTABLISHED, AND PORTUGUESE CONTINUE COOPERATE WITH PRESS, FURTHER EVIDENCE ONE WAY OR THE OTHER SHOULD BE FORTHCOMING.
VAN OSS

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